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# Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4514
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3530

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT ELAB EC
SUBJ: CEOSL'S JOSE CHAVEZ EVALUATES NATIONAL STRIKE AND CONSIDERS FUTURE POLICY CHANGES

REF: QUITO 3334

1. SUMMARY IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AND POL/LABOFF MAY 20, CEOSL PRESIDENT JOSE CHAVEZ SHARED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE RESULTS OF THE NATIONAL GENERAL STRIKE HELD MAY 18 BY ECUADOR'S THREE NATIONAL LABOR CONFEDERATIONS. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE RECENT DIRECTION OF CEOSL POLICIES AND CHAVEZ STATED HIS CONVICTION THAT IT IS TIME FOR CEOSL TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE CHANGES IN ITS POLICY OF JOINT ACTION WITH THE OTHER CONFEDERATIONS. END SUMMARY

2. IN MAY 20 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AND POL/LABOFF CEOSL (ECUADOREAN CONFEDERATION OF FREE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS) PRESIDENT JOSE CHAVEZ CONFESSED DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE RESULTS OF THE NATIONWIDE GENERAL STRIKE CARRIED OUT MAY 18 BY THE THREE NATIONAL LABOR CONFEDERATIONS. CHAVEZ BELIEVES THAT OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS, ONLY CEOSL CARRIED THROUGH ON THE STRIKE. OF 52 STRIKING LABOR GROUPS IN QUITO, 29 WERE CEOSL AFFILIATED. CEDOC AND CTE WERE BADLY DIVIDED BETWEEN SOVIET
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LINE UNIONS THAT SUPPORTED THE STRIKE AND PEKING LINE UNIONS THAT DID NOT. CEOSL, CHAVEZ SAID, HAD HOPED TO KEEP THE STRIKE ON A LABOR AND CLASS LEVEL BUT THE CTE AND CEDOC HAD POLITICIZED IT.

3. THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN TO CHAVEZ THAT, BECAUSE OF THE RECENT JOINT ACTIVITIES OF CEOSL (OBSTENSIBLY

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DEMOCRATIC) WITH THE COMMUNIST DOMINATED CONFEDERATIONS, THE
PUBLIC VIEW OF THE THREE WAS VIRTUALLY INDISTINGUISHABLE.
CHAVEZ REITERATED THAT CEOSL WAS INDISUPTABLY DEMOCRATIC AND
THAT IT WOULD REMAIN SO, BUT ALLOWED THAT THERE WAS SOME TRUTH
TO THE AMBASSADOR'S OBSERVATION AND REASONS FOR HIS CONCERN.
HE SAID THAT THE FAILURE OF THE STRIKE HAD LED HIM TO THE
CONCLUSION THAT IT WAS TIME FOR CEOSL TO CARRY THROUGH A
CAREFUL REVIEW OF ITS POLICY OF UNITY WITH THE OTHER CONFED-
ERATIONS AND TO PERHAPS BEGIN A "COUNTDOWN" OF WITHDRAWAL
FROM THE RELATIONSHIP.

4. COMMENT: CHAVEZ IS A COMPLICATED AND INTELLIGENT MAN WHO FREQUENTLY

TAILORS HIS REMARKS TO SUIT HIS AUDIENCE. HIS COMMENTS ABOUT
THE LIKELY REVISION OF CEOSL UNITY POLICY WERE AS MUCH TO
RESPOND TO THE AMBASSADOR'S CONCERN AS TO REFLECT HIS
DISGUST OVER THE RESULTS OF THE STRIKE. IN ANY CASE, THE
FAILURE OF THE STRIKE WEAKENS HIS "UNITY" POLICY WITH THE
OTHER CONFEDERATIONS AND SOMEWHAT STRENGTHENS THE POSITIONS
OF THOSE IN CEOSL WHO HAVE OPPOSED THE POLICY. IT WILL BE
SOME TIME, HOWEVER, BEFORE THE SINCERITY OF CHAVEZ' COMMENTS
CAN BE TESTED.
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